

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 07555 040747Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

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JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /068 W

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R 031115Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0533

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7555

FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR VANCE AND NEA FOR GRANT AND SCHIFFERDECKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SAFI

1. FOLLOWING IS UNCLEARED MEMCON FROM CONVERSATIONS AMBASSADOR VANCE HAD IN AFGHANISTAN WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR HASHIM SAFI ON NOVEMBER 11. ALSO PRESENT WERE: POLICE MAJOR FAROUK YACOOBI, CHIEF OF PUBLIC SECURITY, MININT; JOSEPH D. MCLAUGHLIN, NEA LIASON OFFICER, S/M; TERRENCE GRANT, NEA REGIONAL POLITICAL ADVISOR/NARCOTICS COORDINATOR; EDWARD E. JOHNSON, WHITE HOUSE; JAMES V. PETTIT, EMBASSY JUSTICE ATTACHE (DEA); LEE O. COLKDREN, ACTING EMBASSY NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICER. WOULD APPRECIATE S/NM ADVISE WHEN MEMCONS CLEARED OR CLEARED WITH CHANGES.

2. QTE AMBASSADOR VANCE EXPLAINED WHO HE WAS AND THE NATURE OF HIS MISSION. HE STRESSED THAT UNITED STATES OVERSEAS EFFORTS ON ILLICIT DRUGS WAS NON-POLITICAL THAT OUR CONCERN WAS TO HELP CONTROL ILLICIT PRODUCTION, INTERDICT DRUGS DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES, AND DISRUPT AND DESTROY THE TRAFFICKING SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO WORK TO SUCH AN END EITHER BILATERALLY, REGIONALLY, OR THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 07555 040747Z

WHICHEVER METHOD SUITED THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE

COUNTRY.

3. DEPUTY MINISTER SAFE REVIEWED THE HIEZHRY OF OPIUM SMUGGLING IN AFGHANISTAN, LAMENTING THAT LACK OF EQUIPMENT HAMPERED THE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE POLICE AS THE SMUGGLERS TO IRAN WERE OFTEN BETTER EQUIPPED. HE FRANKLY STATED THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF AFGHANS WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ENFORCMENT OF THE BAN ON OPIUM CULTIVATION WAS TO AFGHANISTAN'S INTEREST BUT RATHER, GIVEN THE WORLD PRICE OF LICIT OPIUM, AFGHANISTAN SHOULD BEGIN LEGAL PRODUCTION. HE ALLUDED TO THE RECENT SEIZURE OF HEROIN IN AFGHANISTAN STATING THE GOVERNMENT'S AND HIS PERSONAL CONCERN. THE DEPUTY MINISTER DESCRIBED THE PROGRAM IN THE MINISTRY UNDER THE DIRECTOR OF UN NARCOTICS ADVISOR (UNNA) MAGNUSSEN DESCRIBING MR YACOBI'S CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION.

4. IN DISCUSSING THE ADVISEABILITY OF UTILIZING ALL RESOURCES TO ATTACK ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, AMBASSADOR VANCE EXPRESSED SOME PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN SEEMED UNABLE TO FULLY UTILIZE THE SERVICES OF MR PETTIT, ASKING WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS IN THE APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTED "CHARTER".

5. THE DEPUTY MINISTER CONSULTED BRIEFLY WITH MR YACOBI (WHO SPEAKS NO ENGLISH) IN DARI AND REPLIED THAT HE FELT THAT AN EXCELLENT WORKING RELATION EXISTED BETWEEN MR PETTIT, MR YACOBI AND THE UNITED NATIONS NARCOTICS ADVISOR (UNNA) MAGNUSSEN. THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHARTER RESTED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH HAD NOT OFFICIALLY PRESENTED THE "CHARTER" REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

6. THERE ENSUED A LONG AND LIVELY DISCUSSION IN SEVERAL LANGUAGE ON THE QUESTION OF THE CHARTER, OF WHAT WAS ACTUALLY REQUESTED, OF WHAT THE PROBLEMS OF APPROVAL ACTUALLY WERE. THE DEPUTY MINISTER FINALLY STATED THAT HE WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

7. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING, MR COLDREN PRIVATELY TOLD THE DEPUTY MINISTER THAT HE HAD EXPLICITLY BEEN TOLD IN SEPTEMBER BY YAHYA MAARUFI, ACTING DIRECTOR OF UN AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 07555 040747Z

AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, MFA, THAT APPROVAL OF THE "CHARTER" RESTED WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD CONCUR WHATEVER THE DECISION. DEPUTY MINISTER SAFI ALLUDED TO THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THE QUESTION. HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER THAT HE HAD BEEN ENLIGHTENED BY THE DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE AND MR PETTIT AND FELT THAT THE NATURE OF THE CHARTER HAD NOT BEEN UNDERSTOOD FULLY BY THE GOA. WHILE AUTHORIZATION OF THE USE OF WEAPONS AND RADIO WAS PROBABLY NOT

POSSIBLE, THE REST MIGHT WELL BE. IN CONFIDENCE HE STATED THAT THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK HAD BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S FEAR OF A UNILATERALLY CONTROLLED INFORMANT SYSTEM IN AFGHANISTAN. NOW THAT HE BETTER UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE, HE PLANNED TO PURSUE THE MATTER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF AMBASSADOR VANCE AND THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN BUT ALSO THAT HE FELT THE SUPPORT WE COULD PROVIDE UNNA MAGNUSSEN IF AN ACCEPTABLE WORKING AGREEMENT COULD BE FOUND WITH MR PETTIT WOULD BE OF TREMENDOUS VALUE TO THE MINISTRY'S ANTI-SMUGGLING EFFORTS. UNQUOTE.
ELIOT

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